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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,956	08/05/2005	Stephen J. Nolan	3189-01	5533

7590
The Lubrizol Corporation
Patent Administrator
Mail Drop 022B
29400 Lakeland Boulevard
Wickliffe, OH 44092-2298

EXAMINER

GOLOBOY, JAMES C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1797

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/12/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/529,956

Applicant(s)

NOLAN ET AL.

Examiner

James Goloboy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2005 and 05 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-85/86)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/1/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Individual Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thornton*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 1-20 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-44 of copending Application No. 11/557,612. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other.

Claim 34 of the '612 application discloses a process of making a grease comprising forming a dispersant comprising lithium hydroxide, at least one oil, and at least one surfactant, and mixing the dispersion with at least one carboxylic acid. Claims

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38-39 of the '612 application disclose that the particle size of the lithium hydroxide meets the limitations of component (a) of claims 1 and 18. The difference between the claims of the '612 application and the currently presented claims is that the claims of the '612 application do not disclose the concentrations of each component or the HLB of the surfactant.

Applicant's is reminded that those portions of the specification which provide support for the patent claims may also be examined and considered when addressing the issue of whether a claim in an application defines an obvious variation of an invention claimed in the patent. *In re Vogel*, 422 F. 2d 438, 164 USPQ 619, 622 (CCPA 1970).

In paragraph 36, the '612 application discloses that the surfactant can have an HLB of 2.5 to 6, within the range recited in claim 1. When this surfactant is used, the resulting grease meets the limitations of claims 1 and 4-6 of the current application. In paragraph 51 the '612 application discloses that the carboxylic acid can be a stearic acid, as recited in claims 7-8 of the currently presented claims, and in paragraph 52 the '612 application teaches that the acid can be a nonanedioic or decanedioic acid, as recited in claims 7 and 9 of the currently presented claims. In paragraph 55 the '612 application teaches that the composition can further comprise additives as recited in claim 10 of the current application.

In paragraph 42 the '612 application discloses that the concentration of lithium hydroxide in the dispersion can be from 12 to 45% by weight, overlapping the ranges recited in claims 2-3 and 11-12. In paragraph 53 the '612 application discloses that the

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concentration of acid in the dispersion can be from 3 to 8% by weight, within the ranges recited in claims 2 and 11. In paragraph 54 the '612 application discloses that the grease is made by reacting the components at a temperature of 80 to 180 degrees, within the range recited in claim 14. Forming the grease by the process of the '612 application would meet the limitations of claims 12 and 14-17.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the reactants, concentrations, and reaction conditions of the '612 application in the method of the claims of the '612 application, as the application teaches that they are preferable for forming the grease.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Naka (U.S Pat. No. 5,498,357).

In Table 4(1) (columns 11-14), Naka discloses a grease composition (comparative example 11) comprising a lithium stearate thickener and a surfactant with

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an HLB of 3. Lithium stearate is a reaction product of components (a) and (c) of claim 1, and the HLB of the surfactant is within the claimed range. The composition of Naka therefore meets the limitations of claim 1 and 4, which is in product-by-process form, as the composition can be formed by the process recited in the claim. Lithium is an alkali metal, meeting the limitations of claims 5-6, and stearic acid is a carboxylic acid meeting the limitations of claims 7-8. The composition also comprises a rust inhibitor, as recited in claim 10. The amounts of lithium, stearate, and base oil in the example of Naka fall within the ranges recited in claim 2. As the grease of Naka meets the limitations of claim 18, the process of forming the grease of Naka meets the limitations of the claim.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Goloboy whose telephone number is (571)272-2476. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on 571-272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JCG

/Glenn A Caldarola/
Acting SPE of Art Unit 1797